ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

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Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust Volume 8 Issue 1 January 2010

Exploring Ontario's southern peninsula

In this issue:

The history of Chatham-Kent

Bkejwanong: Sustaining a 6,000-year-old conservation legacy

The archaeology of southwestern Ontario

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Photo courtesy of Grand Erie Tourism

Ontario's southern peninsula (roughly from Port Dover along the shores of Lake Erie to Windsor in the west and north along Lake Huron to Southampton, and all points in between) contains a wealth of heritage – diverse archaeological discoveries, structures that chronicle the story of this part of the province, museums filled with artifacts that reflect the region's development and way of life, inspiring Black history that tells the story of escaped American slaves and the lives they built for themselves here, and breathtaking natural heritage that defines much of the region's shape and development. I am struck by the tremendous variety of heritage this part of the province has to offer.

This issue of Heritage Matters showcases this rich diversity. The First Nations presence in Ontario's southern peninsula continues to resonate today. Towns in this part of the province also expanded during times of war, particularly the War of 1812, when forts and ports were established. Afterwards, in times of peace, these towns continued to grow both industrially and agriculturally.

This is a story of thousands of years of human history told by the area's residents, both native and immigrant. As you read the following articles, you will be struck by the scope of our heritage in this arm of the province. And as we celebrate Heritage Week 2010 in Chatham-Kent, we can continue to remind ourselves of the significance of this heritage in building the diverse province we enjoy today.

Celebrate with us as we journey together through Ontario's southern peninsula.

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Cover: Point Pelee, Canada's southernmost point of land (© Ontario Tourism 2010)

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Heritage Matters

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Ontario

Board appointments

By Catrina Colme

The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, is pleased to announce several new appointments to the Ontario Heritage Trust's Board of Directors.

Glen Brown, Toronto
Glen Brown has served on the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Historical Society, and as Chair of its Historic Preservation Committee, and on the Management Committee of the Dalnavert Museum (Winnipeg). He was also the Vice-President of the Founding Executive of the Intrepid Society, which honours the memory and accomplishments of Sir William Stephenson, C.C. Mr. Brown also served on the City of Winnipeg's Historic Buildings Committee, for which he received the City's Merit Award.

Dr. Robert Gordon, Toronto
Dr. Robert Gordon was President of Humber College of Applied Arts and Technology from 1982 until his retirement in 2007. Prior to that, he was Principal and CEO of Dawson College in Montreal. He is President of the Corporation of Bishop's University and a Leader in Residence for the Council of Emerging Leaders of the Conference Board of Canada. Dr. Gordon has been awarded honorary degrees by Bishop's University and the universities of Guelph, New Brunswick and Toronto and is a member of the Order of Ontario.

Melanie Hare, Toronto
Ms. Hare is an urban planner and partner with Urban Strategies Inc., a planning and urban design firm based in Toronto. She is an expert in sustainable community planning, with a background in urban policy, strategic planning and urban design. She is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and a member of the Board of the Canadian Urban Institute, and is currently involved in city building projects in Toronto, many communities throughout southern Ontario and Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Harvey McCue, Ottawa
Harvey McCue co-founded the Department of Native Studies at Trent University. He taught at Trent for 14 years, attaining the rank of Associate Professor. He has served as the Director of Education Services for the Cree School Board, and as Director of Policy and Research and subsequently as Director General of the Education Branch at Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa. In 1993, Mr. McCue accepted the position of Executive Director and Director of Education of the Mi'kmaq Education Authority in Nova Scotia, leaving that post in 1995 to become a consultant on Aboriginal issues in Ottawa. He is a member of the Georgina Island First Nation.

Don Pearson, Alliston
Don Pearson is General Manager of Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization representing Ontario's 36 conservation authorities. Before joining Conservation Ontario in 2005, he served two years as Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Perth, and from 1981 until 2003, as General Manager of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Mr. Pearson has been an active community volunteer for the United Way of London and Middlesex, the 2001 Canada Summer Games, the Southwestern Ontario Travel Association, the Grand Bend Harbour Committee and the London and Middlesex Heritage Museum. Currently, Mr. Pearson is a member of the Ontario Biodiversity Council and recently chaired the Natural Spaces Leadership Alliance.

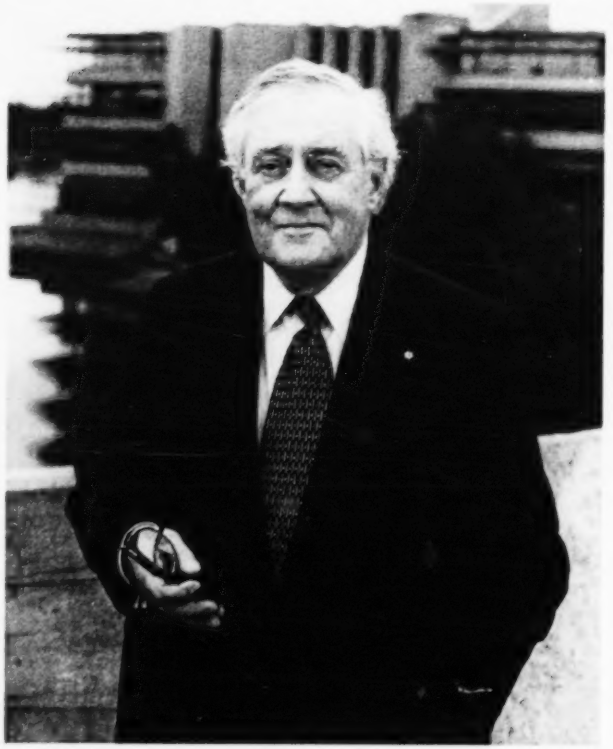
Maria Topalovich, Toronto
Maria Topalovich is the Executive Director of the Guild of Canadian Film Composers and former President and CFO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (1989-2007). She was previously with the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture as a Granting Arts Officer. Her current volunteer work includes serving as Vice-Chair of Casa Loma, Vice-President of the Actor's Fund of Canada and President of the Faculty of Music Alumni Association at the University of Toronto.

Catrina Colme is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

In addition to these appointments, Dr. Thomas H.B. Symons, a member of the Trust's Board of Directors since 2006, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Thomas H.B. Symons, Peterborough
Professor Symons was the Founding President of Trent University and served as its President and Vice-Chancellor from 1961 to 1972. Appointed Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1986, he served in that post until 1996. Professor Symons' work in education, human rights and heritage conservation has received national and international recognition, including honorary degrees from 14 universities and colleges across Canada and beyond. Now Vanier President Emeritus of Trent, Professor Symons is a Companion of the Order of Canada and a Member of the Order of Ontario.

The Ontario Heritage Trust's Board is comprised of 18 directors. For a complete list of the Trust's Board members, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.



The history of Chatham-Kent

By Dave Benson

Chatham-Kent's rich cultural heritage began long before European settlement when large stockaded villages and Neutral Indians dominated the Thames River and the Lake Erie-Lake St. Clair shorelines.

The Thames attracted French and Loyalist settlers as early as the 1780s. Persecuted Moravian missionaries from Pennsylvania also came up the Thames and established the village of Fairfield in 1793. Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe identified the Forks of the Thames (present-day Chatham) as a site of strategic importance and established a blockhouse and shipyard there in 1794. Similarly, the Sydenham River was the site in 1804 of one of Lord Selkirk's early communities, Baldoon, near present-day Wallaceburg.

By 1812, settlement had developed to such a degree that settlers were able to muster a respectable militia force to defend the region. This progress was set back during the American pursuit of British and First Nations forces in the fall of 1813, which resulted in the burning of mills, the destruction of Fairfield and the death of Chief Tecumseh at the Battle of the Thames.

In the decades following the War of 1812, settlement continued along the Thames, while the clearing of the Talbot Trail brought new immigrants to the fertile lands along the Lake Erie shore. Morpeth, Wheatley, Port Alma and Port Crewe all developed as shipping ports for the developing agricultural hinterland. During this period, Chatham-Kent also became a major destination for refugees from slavery. Buxton, Dawn and Chatham all became important sites of Black settlement.

In the 1850s and 1860s, one of the earliest discoveries of oil was made near Bothwell. Although the oil boom was short lived, the region's fossil fuel heritage continued with the discovery of natural gas fields and the establishment of Union Gas in the early 20th century.

The construction of four major railroads between 1854 and the 1880s had a profound impact on the settlement pattern and economic development of Chatham-Kent. Many of the former port communities were now overshadowed by station towns such as Highgate, Charing Cross, Ridgetown and Tilbury. The convergence of several of these lines at Chatham enabled the city's rapid industrial, commercial and population growth in the late 19th century. Chatham became a leading exporter of agricultural implements, as well as the manufacturing capital of horse-drawn vehicles in Canada. Likewise, the rails and shipping on the Sydenham River contributed to Wallaceburg's development as Ontario's "Glass Town."

Chatham-Kent's agricultural production in the late 19th century was facilitated by technological innovations that allowed over 50,000 acres of low-lying marsh to be drained through the use of dikes, dash-wheels and deep underground tunnels. This land was considered the most fertile in Ontario and its reclamation one of the largest in North America. With this reclaimed land, Chatham-Kent enjoyed productive and innovative agricultural expansion through such new crops as sugar beets and hybrid seed corn.

The growth of the Chatham-Kent area has been broad and profound. If the past has been any indication, then the area's future growth shows tremendous promise.

Dave Benson is a Heritage Coordinator for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Bkejwanong: Sustaining a 6,000-year-old conservation legacy

By Clint Jacobs

Land around the northern tip of Walpole Island First Nation looking southeast along the St. Clair River (Photo: Aaron Hall)

Nestled at the mouth of the St. Clair River on Lake St. Clair in southwestern Ontario is the Walpole Island First Nation or "Bkejwanong," meaning "where the waters divide" in Ojibwe. A legacy of conservation practices cultivated by my people, the Anishnaabe (Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa tribes) has ensured that the land remains remarkably alive with natural wonder.

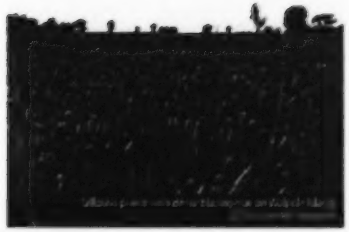
Throughout the approximately 6,000 years that my people have lived at Bkejwanong, we have been dependent on All the Earth. The land took care of us; in turn, we were taught that we had the responsibility to reciprocate that care. Land stewardship was instilled in our children through traditional teachings. Families would harvest materials, medicines and food from the land in a sustainable way to ensure that those gifts were available for future harvests and generations to come.

Today, our community boasts a unique natural heritage of world-class wetlands, Carolinian forests and rare oak savannas and tallgrass prairies – including over 60 of Canada's rare and endangered species, some found nowhere else in Canada. With a population of just over 4,000, we have successfully shared our territory for millennia with a diversity of species such as small white lady's slipper, Kentucky coffee-tree, sassafras, dense blazingstar, king rail, spotted turtle and flying squirrel.

During the last century, however, our relationship with the land has eroded. The traditional practice of passing knowledge from elder to youth has been disrupted because of the residential school legacy, technology and modern conveniences that have damaged our symbiotic relationship with the environment. The cultural values and ecological knowledge that have safeguarded our land for millennia are in danger of disappearing.

As a growing community with an historic cultural legacy tied to our ancestral home, how do we continue to protect and sustain our natural heritage in the face of modern social and economic pressures? This is a question we have been actively addressing as a community for decades through the work of the Walpole Island Heritage Centre and other grassroots initiatives.

More recently, Anishnaabe-speaking community members and language learners are in the process of integrating our legends and stories into school curriculum and language immersion programs to foster and enable bilingualism. Further, our youth are becoming involved in conservation through the Bkejwanong Eco-keepers youth environmental stewardship program, providing summer students with opportunities to work on stewardship projects, many of which they design themselves. This teaches conservation ethics and influences cultural ties to the land, while exposing the students to a range of career opportunities within the environmental field. As well, our new energy conservation office educates community members on how to reduce energy use and eliminate greenhouse gases. ▶



Partnering with groups and individuals outside the community is another important part of our conservation approach. We have shared and exchanged experiences with people across North America and beyond. For example, in partnership with the Native Territories Avian Research Project, we are creating hummingbird, songbird and owl banding programs in collaboration with Six Nations Territory and the Chippewas of the Thames to provide bird studies education and training opportunities.

Our community recently celebrated a milestone – the creation of Canada's first registered Aboriginal land trust, the Walpole Island Land Trust, which aims to integrate formal land conservation with traditional cultural ties to the land. In addition to several tallgrass prairie conservation and stewardship projects (thanks to the generous support of corporate and conservation sponsors), we are also conserving and restoring a 171-acre/ 69-hectare marsh on Walpole Island with a number of local partners.

Tallgrass prairie is a globally imperilled ecosystem that provides habitat for many species at risk, such as the endangered bobwhite quail. Funds raised for these habitats will also support ecological restoration, research, training and community initiatives that will teach our children sustainable methods of harvesting food and medicine. Youth will be mentored by elders to learn ethical hunting practices, survival techniques and stories that relate our historical relationship with the land – ensuring that they know how to live on, and protect, our territory.

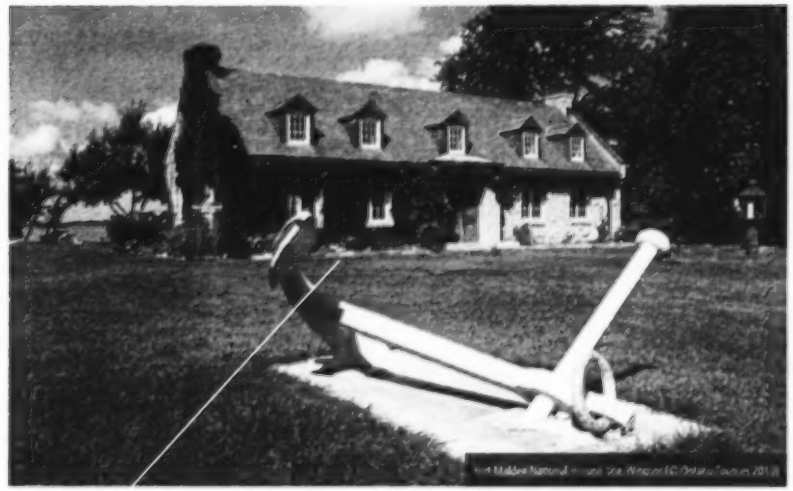
By pursuing natural heritage protection while working as a community to promote and maintain our relationship with the land, our rich biodiversity can share a prosperous future with my people. Simultaneously, it encourages us to look to the future as our elders and ancestors did, a philosophy that has supported my people for more than 6,000 years. We owe it to our ancestors and all our relations – the plants and animals – to sustain our conservation legacy.

For more information, visit
www.bhpsunning.com and
www.walpoleislandlandtrust.com

Clint Jacobs is the Walpole Island Heritage Centre's Natural Heritage Coordinator and President of the Walpole Island Land Trust.

EXPLORING ONTARIO'S SOUTHERN PENINSULA

By Kathryn Millard



As you roam the highways and backways of Ontario's southern peninsula, a tapestry of stories unravels. These stories speak about settlement and growth, a testament to the people and events that helped shape this part of the province.

Starting above Lake Erie, the area is inextricably linked to the tobacco industry, as evidenced by the many tobacco sheds that dot the largely agricultural landscape. Aboriginal people were the first to cultivate tobacco for both spiritual and trade-related purposes. By the early 19th century, however, commercial cultivation of the plant was also being undertaken by area settlers. It was not until the First World War, however, that the industry began to prosper in south-western Ontario. By the mid-1920s, large amounts of land were converted to prosperous tobacco farms, particularly in the area around Tillsonburg and Delhi. The Ontario Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre in Delhi preserves the history of the province's tobacco industry – an industry that has declined in recent years, forcing area farmers to diversify their crops and seek creative and challenging alternatives to maintain their livelihood.

Travelling northwest, one reaches the town of Ingersoll – another community rich in agricultural heritage. A visit to the Cheese and Agricultural Museum provides a window into the development of the area's dairy industry. The "Big Cheese of 1866" – produced at the James Harris Cheese Company – weighed a staggering 7,300 pounds. This wheel of cheese raises the profile of Canadian cheddar as a trade commodity while it was on display in London, England.

Southwest of Ingersoll sits Ontario's own city of London. Located at the "Forks of the Thames," the site was selected as an ideal location for the capital of Upper Canada by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe in 1793, but plans to establish the capital there were abandoned when Simcoe left Upper Canada in 1796.

In 1826, London was established as the new district town, and officials of the London District gradually began to move to the new centre from their well-appointed homes in Norfolk County. By 1860, London was a successful administrative and commercial centre. Today, its metropolitan ▶

EXPLORING ONTARIO'S SOUTHERN PENINSULA

FEATURE STORY

population exceeds 400,000. The Forks of the Thames now consists of an interconnected series of parks within walking distance of many of the city's built heritage attractions – including Eldon House, London's oldest remaining residence.

In 2000, the Thames River – which runs through London and passes through several communities, including Chatham, before emptying into Lake St. Clair – was designated a Canadian Heritage River. Historically, it served as an access route for settlement; numerous saw and grist mills were established along its banks. Today, the river is home to one of Canada's most diverse fish communities, providing habitats for 88 species. The watershed represents a tangible intersection of cultural and natural heritage in southwestern Ontario.

Some 30 kilometres south of London sits St. Thomas, a community that celebrates its railway heritage. In 1856, the London and Port Stanley Railway commenced operations running south from London to St. Thomas and then on to Port Stanley on the shore of Lake Erie. The decision to route the line via St. Thomas had a significant impact on the growth and development of that community's railway industry. By 1914, there were eight railways operating in St. Thomas and over 100 trains passed through the community daily. The industry remained the dominant employer in St. Thomas until the 1950s.

St. Thomas is also an excellent place to discover the impact of Colonel Thomas Talbot on the growth and development of this region of the province. A chief colonizer of Ontario's southern peninsula, he had established thousands of settlers on his land holdings by 1828. He also supervised construction of a 483-kilometre/300-mile road along much of Lake Erie's north shore.

South of St. Thomas at Sparta, an Ontario Heritage Trust provincial plaque commemorates the "Sparta Settlement," a Quaker community founded in 1815 on a 3,000-acre/1,214-hectare land grant obtained by Jonathan Duan. By 1821, the settlement was a thriving agricultural centre.

Farther south is the Lakeside community of Port Stanley. While it has been a working fishing village for over a century, Port Stanley also became an important tourist attraction in the early 1900s with its sandy beaches, casino and big band venue – the Stork Club. Today, many tangible reminders of Port Stanley's identity exist throughout the community; it is still an important summer tourist destination. As a reminder of the area's railway heritage, Port Stanley Terminal Rail continues to operate tourist excursion trains along portions of the former London and Port Stanley Railway line.

Heading west, beautiful Rondeau Park waits to be explored. Located approximately 85 kilometres/53 miles west of Port Stanley along the Talbot Lies Trail, Rondeau Park is Ontario's second oldest provincial park and protects an important and rare Carolinian habitat. Similarly, farther west, Point Pelee and Pelee Island offer stellar bird-watching opportunities. Created in 1918, Point Pelee National Park encompasses 20 square kilometers/7.7 square miles of varied landscape, including marshes, Carolinian forest, Savannah grasslands, and, of course, the Point itself – a 10-kilometre/6.2-mile sand spit jutting out into Lake Erie. Pelee Island forms the southernmost portion of Canada and is also noted for grape growing and nonetheless fishing opportunities.

The name Pelee speaks to the area's cultural heritage and is derived from the French usage, "pointe pelée," meaning "bald point." The peninsula was aptly named by French explorers who followed the Aboriginal "carrying place" route through the marsh to avoid the dangerous currents at the peninsula's tip.

North west of Point Pelee is the self-proclaimed tomato capital of Canada, Leamington. In 1899, in an attempt to attract new industry, Leamington's town council passed a bylaw that enticed manufacturers to relocate to this community. This decision paid off when, in 1908, H.J. Heinz Company of Canada chose to establish its operations at Leamington. In 1910, the company produced its first bottle of ketchup and the community's identity has been linked to tomatoes ever since.

Travelling west from Leamington to the edge of the peninsula at Amherstburg, one learns more about Upper Canada's military heritage through a visit to Fort Malden National Historic Site. The site's first post, Fort Amherstburg, was constructed in 1796 and served as the regional headquarters for British forces during the War of 1812. It was destroyed by the British when they were forced to retreat in 1813. Fort Malden was constructed after the War of 1812 and rebuilt in 1838-40 when it served as a centre for British defence during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837-39.

Amherstburg is also home to the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre. It offers visitors a chance to learn more about the Underground Railroad and the experiences of Black freedom seekers who escaped from slavery in the United States to settle in this part of Ontario. It is one of many sites in the area that preserve and promote an understanding of the province's unique Black heritage.

Following the Detroit River north from Amherstburg around the edge of the peninsula leads to Windsor – a city with significant cultural and industrial heritage narratives. Known as the oldest identified site of continued settlement in Ontario, Windsor has a dynamic French heritage that dates back to the 18th century and continues to be reflected in the patterns and names of its streets.

In the mid-18th century, the government of New France had realized the strategic importance of an increased presence on the Detroit River. In 1749, it offered land for agricultural settlement on the river's south shore. Together with civilians and discharged soldiers from Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit), families who had relocated from the lower St. Lawrence River formed the settlement of La Petite Cote. When the French regime ended in 1760, close to 300 settlers were living in the community.

Windsor is also a city with a fascinating industrial heritage that continues to inform its past, present and future. In 1854, the Great Western Railway selected Windsor as its terminus. This decision marked the beginning of much of Windsor's industrial development, including Hiram Walker's decision to establish his distillery in 1857 at a site just east of downtown (Walkerville) where the Great Western Railway met the waterfront.

Much of Windsor's 20th century industrial heritage is linked to the automobile industry. During and after the First World War, an area known as "Ford City" grew up around the company's industrial complex. A walking tour of Ford City developed by the Windsor Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee provides an excellent glimpse into Windsor's industrial heritage, which continues to impact the riverside city.

An one heads east from Windsor towards Chatham, a number of sites tell the story of Ontario's Black heritage. Buxton National Historic Site and Museum in North Buxton tells the story of the Elgin Settlement, founded in 1840 by William King, as a ▶

place where fugitive slaves and free Blacks fleeing oppression in the United States could begin anew in Canada. Farther north, the First Baptist Church at Chatham and Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site (owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust) at Dresden continue the complex story of Ontario's Black heritage.

East of Dresden on the St. Clair River, the Walpole Island First Nation works actively to preserve its cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Northeast of Walpole Island, opportunities abound to explore Ontario's oil producing heritage. The communities of Oil Springs, Petrolia and Sarnia all play a part in the province's oil heritage narrative. A visit to the Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs, which preserves the site of North America's first commercial oil well dug by James Miller Williams in 1858, is an excellent place to begin a tour of Ontario's Oil Heritage District.

The heritage narratives of Ontario's southern peninsula combine to produce a rich and diverse fabric of cultural and natural heritage. By engaging with this heritage, we see how the past has informed the growth and development of this part of Ontario, and will continue to do so in the future.

Kathryn McLeod is the Public Education Program Assistant at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The communities of Oil Springs, Petrolia and Sarnia all play a part in the province's oil heritage narrative. © Ontario Tourism 2010

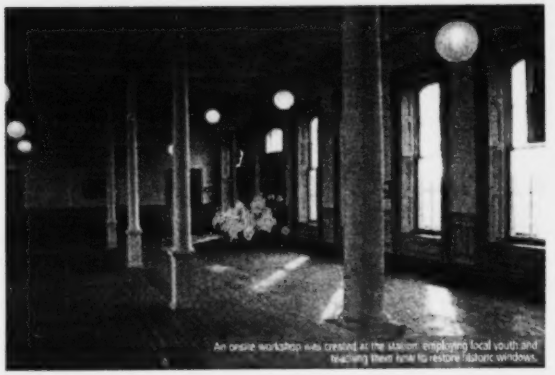
Seeing better days

By Kiki Aravopoulos

The St. Thomas Canadian Southern Railway station (CASO) occupies a prominent position on the city's main street. Perhaps it is the station's sheer size – many refer to it as a horizontal skyscraper – that contributes to its landmark value. It is easy to see how it would have shaped not only the development of St. Thomas, but also the railways of southwest Ontario, Michigan and New York State. Yet years of abandon, vandalism and neglect led many to believe that its best days were gone.

From 1871-73, 31 railway stations were constructed as part of the CASO project, the one at St. Thomas was the largest. Its status as the international CASO headquarters is reflected in both its scale and construction. The Italianate style, unusual for railway construction at the time, is evident in the station's tall symmetrical plan and decorative architectural features signifying the importance of the station to this region. St. Thomas was seen as the shortest and most direct route between Detroit and Buffalo and was a regular stop for goods travelling from many American cities. The station became the economic and social centre of St. Thomas.

From the beginning, however, the station was plagued with difficulties. CASO went bankrupt the year after the station was completed and the station was sold a few years later. In 1925, a fire damaged much of the roof and second floor. As the importance of the railways began to decline in the mid-20th century, so did the fortunes of the CASO station. Passenger trains stopped running in the 1970s and, with the last employee leaving the station in 1996, the windows were boarded up and this once magnificent structure fell into a state of disrepair.



An onsite workshop was created at the station, employing local youth and teaching them how to restore historic windows.

The North American Railway Hall of Fame (NARHF), a not for profit organization, acquired the station in 2005. They are currently working to adaptively reuse the station by preserving its existing heritage features, while altering parts of the building to allow it to accommodate new uses, ranging from retail and office space to an interpretative centre. Funds secured through a job creation program saw all 160 windows of the building repaired and restored. The Ontario Heritage Trust also committed emergency funds toward a study that focused on repairing the deteriorating soffits and fascias.

Restoration of the interior is also underway. The dining hall hosted its first wedding in 2005. The space continues to be rented out for events, allowing NARHF to generate revenue during restorations. Rehabilitating a building of this size is a daunting project, but progress is constantly being made. It now looks as though the station's best days are still ahead.

Kiki Aravopoulos is the Trust's Easements Program Coordinator.

GUEST COLUMNIST

The archaeology of southwestern Ontario

By Robert Pearce

Reconstructed longhouse and palisade at the Lawson site (Photo courtesy of Robert Pearce)

One of the murals at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology depicting a caribou hunt during the Palaeo-Indian period (Photo courtesy of Robert Pearce)

Southwestern Ontario has an extremely rich and diverse cultural history dating back 11,000 years. We can follow human history and settlement through archaeology in this region. Evidence suggests that nomadic hunters of the Palaeo-Indian period (9000-7000 BC) moved into a tundra-like environment as the last glaciers retreated. Archaeological evidence further indicates that small bands of people followed herds of migrating caribou along the shoreline of glacial Lake Algonquin, from the vicinity of present-day Parkhill to the Collingwood area. Major campsites near Parkhill and Thedford were repeatedly visited over several generations between 11,000 and 10,400 years ago.

The hunters, fishers and foragers of the Archaic period (7500-1000 BC) witnessed a long, gradual change in the environment to modern, temperate forest conditions. All available species of animals, birds and fish were exploited and new technologies, such as fishing and wood-working, emerged. Societal evolution through this period saw the manufacture of ornamental and ceremonial artifacts that were purposefully interred with the dead. The archaeological record of this period includes campsites for both large and small groups of people – and a wide range of special-purpose sites, including fishing camps, camps located beside chert outcrops (the raw material used to make stone tools) and burial sites.

The traders and potters of the Initial Woodland period (1000 BC-800 AD) developed pottery (ceramic vessels and smoking pipes) and the associated trade networks. Regionally distinct cultural groups can be recognized in the archaeological record for the first time. Near the end of this period, certain groups began experimenting with the cultivation of corn as the climate warmed enough to permit its growth in this region.

The early farmers of the Terminal Woodland period (800-1550 AD) relied increasingly on the cultivation of the "Three Sisters" – corn, beans and squash – and organized themselves into formal palisaded villages. This period saw the emergence of the distinct tribal groupings known from the later historic period as the Neutral, Erie, Huron and Petun. The Lawson Iroquoian village site adjacent to the present-day Museum of Ontario Archaeology in London, and many other Iroquoian villages, were established toward the end of this period.

Contact and conflict were the dominant themes of the Historic Period (1550-1650 AD), when European explorers, missionaries and traders interacted directly with First Nations in what is now Ontario. This period saw the formation of tribal confederacies, such as the Neutral Iroquoian Confederacy in the area around present-day Brantford-Hamilton, and ultimately the dispersal and/or total annihilation of some of Ontario's First Nations.

The historic period from 1650 AD onward witnessed the re-location into southwestern Ontario of First Nations from other areas (i.e., Algonquian-speaking groups from northern and southeastern Ontario, and the Iroquois from New York State), and the establishment of farmsteads and settlements by the first waves of European-born immigrants. Recent archaeological investigations throughout southwestern Ontario of lands slated for future development have included the excavation of a large number of 19th-century pioneer homesteads, schools, churches, cemeteries and blacksmith shops.

As we sweep through southwestern Ontario – and thousands of years of development – Ontario's past has left us many indelible clues as to our existence. By studying these artifacts more closely, we are able to paint a more complete picture of the mosaic of our past.

Antler effigy comb recovered in 2007 at the Lawson Iroquoian village site, London (Photo courtesy of Robert Pearce)

Robert Pearce has been a licensed archaeologist since 1975. He is also the Executive Director of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology.

Museum of Ontario Archaeology – www.uwo.ca/museum

Given the rich store of archaeological finds in this part of the province, it's not surprising that the Museum of Ontario Archaeology is located here. The museum, founded by Arnies and Wilfrid Jury in 1933 at the University of Western Ontario, changed its name and location several times. But, since 1961, it has been located in northwest London adjacent to the Lawson Iroquoian village site. The museum continues to operate as a research institute affiliated with the university.

The permanent gallery today features large murals illustrating daily life through each of the six major time periods, as well as cases displaying representative artifacts. There is a re-creation of a typical archaeological dig site and a 1920s model of an Iroquoian village at the time of European contact. Temporary and travelling exhibits can also be found in the feature gallery. Outside, visitors can enter the reconstructed palisade and tour reconstructed longhouses. There are also interpretive signs, seasonal archaeological excavation demonstrations and nature trails.

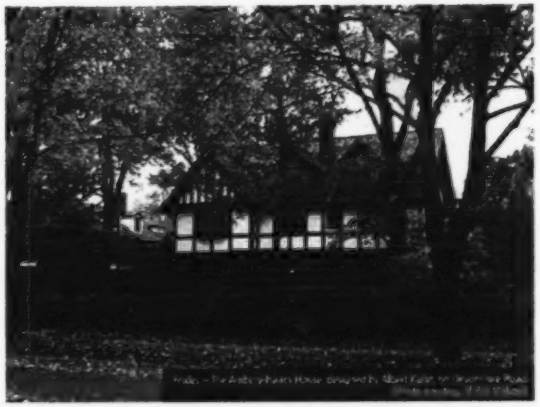
In addition, the museum offers several educational experiences. Elementary and secondary school classes routinely visit to partake in one of 11 different educational programs geared to school curriculum. Museum staff also offer outreach programs.

The museum hosts special events throughout the year, including an underwater archaeology event in April, the Native Harvest Festival in late September and Christmas in the Longhouse in late November.

WALKERVILLE: THE HERITAGE OF A COMPANY TOWN

Visit the City of Windsor's website for a walking tour of Walkerville (www.citywindsor.ca/DisplayAttach.asp?AttachID=320).

Hiram Walker Executive Building (now a Hotel Dr), designed by Albert Kahn. (Photo courtesy of Pat Malicki)



Among the shrinking number of 19th-century company towns, Walkerville – part of the City of Windsor since 1935 – remains an outstanding example of what can happen when a visionary industrialist acquires acres of French farmland for his fieldoms.

This industrialist was Hiram Walker – a farm boy from Massachusetts, an enterprising Yankee grocer and distiller of vinegar in Detroit who looked south across the Detroit River and saw his future in the narrow farms stretching back from the Canadian shore. It is a short step from vinegar to whiskey and, in 1858, Hiram took that step. Hiram Walker & Sons became legendary for its Canadian Club brand.

On the eastern edge of Windsor's core lies the picturesque precinct still stubbornly referred to as Walkerville. Walkerville comprises about four square blocks, from the shore of the Detroit River where the distillery stands, southward to Ottawa Street, bounded on the west by Lincoln Road and on the east by Walker Road. But land acquisition did not stop there. Walker eventually spread his land holdings more than a mile to the south, developing the Walker Farms, where hops (for the future brewery), corn and rye (for the whiskey, of course) were harvested. Swine husbandry evolved – the swine consumed the mash produced by the distilling process.

Developed on the English "Garden City" Plan, the company town provided modest housing for distillery workers close to the industrial hub (Walker Road). The housing consists of parallel streets (Monmouth and Argyle), lined with small cottages, quadruplex row houses and semi-detached housing. It is noteworthy that workers were required to live in company housing at modest rent. Ironically, workers had to live teetotal; Walker's police force made sure of that.

The Walker sons' Walkerville Land & Building Company used outstanding architectural firms. At the outset, Hiram's architects of choice were Mason & Rice, a prominent firm from Detroit that built the company's beautiful administrative office in 1892. The early 1890s saw fine duplexes rise on Devonshire Road for middle management and clergy. (In addition, Hiram built the town's church on Riverside Drive, as well as a street railway and railway hotel.). Farther inland were more elegant residences for the upper class – the directors and managers of various Walker enterprises. Hiram himself never took up residence in Walkerville as did his sons, but commuted daily by ferry from Detroit.

Edward Chandler Walker, the "Number One" son, built his fine house in 1909 and named it for his deceased elder brother, Willis. Willistead remains the most architecturally distinguished house in the region. For this physical expression of self-worth, Chandler chose Mason & Rice's extraordinary draftsman, Albert Kahn, the son of a German immigrant rabbi. Albert rose to international prominence through the burgeoning automotive industry, designing grand houses and innovative, light-filled factories across the continent and abroad.

Willistead Manor, interior, designed by Albert Kahn. (Photo courtesy of Pat Malicki)

With government assistance, Walker built the Lake Erie, Essex and Detroit River Railway to transport farm produce in and out of his empire, as well as to ship liquor across the border town during Prohibition, thanks to a loophole in the law). At one point, he and his sons developed a summer resort in the town of Kingsville on Lake Erie – the Mettawas Hotel, with its own beautiful rail station designed by Mason & Rice – taking advantage of the desire of Detroiters to get away from the rapidly growing metropolis and kick back on sunny beaches. A private ferry service brought the travellers directly across the Detroit River to Walker's dock, and then on to the elegant train station on the town's main street, Devonshire Road (since demolished by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway).

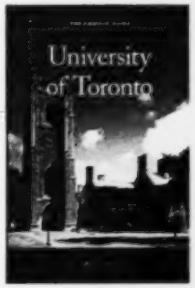
At the heart of the town, in 1904, the Walker sons had a fine stone church built in honour of their mother, and named it in her memory – St. Mary's Anglican Church. Architects Cram Goodhue & Ferguson of Boston and New York drew the plans, reminiscent of an English country church with modest Gothic elements.

Over the decades, Walkerville has lost some of its fine structures, especially those built for the distillery. But its picturesque charm still draws discerning home buyers looking for old-fashioned architectural beauty – fine houses on large, landscaped lots, and excellence in building materials and construction techniques. It remains Windsor's most admired neighbourhood.

Evelyn G. McLean was Windsor's first heritage planner and has been an advocate of heritage in the City of Windsor for years.

WHAT'S ON . . .

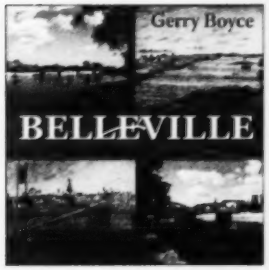
. . . the shelf



University of Toronto: An architectural tour, by Larry Wayne Richards

Princeton Architectural Press. Originally built in the 19th century in a pastoral setting outside the city limits, the University of Toronto is today Canada's largest institution of higher education, with three campuses in and around Toronto. One of the highest-ranked universities in the world, it contains some of the finest architecture in Canada, starting with Frederic Cumberland's masterpiece, the Norman Romanesque-style University College, of 1856. Other buildings of note include W.G. Storm's impressive Romanesque-revival Victoria College building (1889), Darling & Pearson's Gothic Trinity College building, and Hart House, designed by architects Sproatt & Rolph in 1919. In recent years, the university has continued to expand with buildings designed by Lord Norman Foster, Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner, KPMB, Diamond and Schmitt, Saucier + Perrotte, and Pritzker prize-winning Thom Mayne, among many others.

This guide captures the university's three campuses and buildings in colour photographs and detailed maps, following its history from the 19th century to the present day.

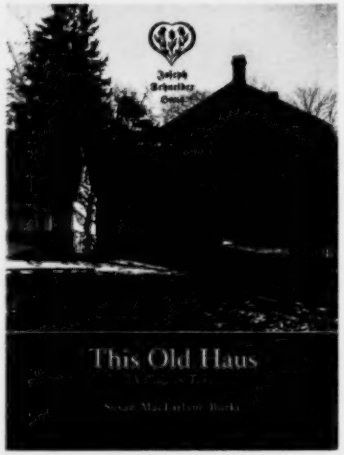


Belleville: A popular history, edited by Gerry Boyce.

Dundurn Press. *Belleville* is a treasure trove of stories – "glorious and not-so-glorious" – embodying the history of the city of Belleville and its beautiful surroundings. Gerry Boyce, the dean of the area's historians, has done a masterful job of pulling together the best of Belleville's storied past, episode by episode, decade by decade: here one learns about the Native roots of the place, its debatable "discovery" by Champlain, its hot-headed pre-Confederation politics, its involvement in Spiritualism in the 1850s and the spread of prostitution in the Victorian 1870s. Moving forward from the days of Susanna Moodie and Mackenzie Bowell, it provides an entertaining and probing stroll through the past 110 years, reminding readers of such national events as the sensational 1959 victory by the Belleville MacFarlands over the Russians at the World Amateur Hockey Championship in Prague, and then, less well known, the financially crippling news of secret payments made to the players. Gerry Boyce does a masterful job of bringing the city's history – its events, places and personalities – to life, reminding us that our history, be it local or national, is much more lively and intriguing than we often realize.

This Old Haus: A Place in Time, by Susan MacFarlane Burke with Kenneth McLaughlin and Stephanie Kirkwood Walker

Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus. *This Old Haus: A Place in Time* is a large-format, lushly illustrated book on the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum. The book combines the story of the Pennsylvania-German Schneider family who



arrived in the forested heart of today's Kitchener early in the 19th century with a detailed analysis of their c. 1816 "Mennonite Georgian" vernacular house and its characteristic outbuildings. The lively text offers an engaging account of the museological practices that transformed the homestead into a "living museum" during the last decades of the 20th century. The authors have emphasized the restoration projects and community vision that preserved this much-loved property, and have detailed the vibrant heritage and arts programs that sustain it. Artifacts that have won wide respect for the museum's material culture collections are discussed and illustrated throughout the book. High standards in the Haus and high praise from the community endorse what has become a National Historic Site charged with representing the ethnic German cultures of Canada.

In the coming months . . .

The Ontario Heritage Trust regularly hosts or attends events that impact our rich and unique heritage. From provincial plaque unveilings to conferences, we are busy year-round with activities that promote heritage conservation in Ontario.

Here are some of the events and activities occurring over the next few months. Visit our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca for more details!

February 12, 2010 – The Ontario Heritage Trust launches Heritage Week 2010 at the Armoury in Chatham. The launch event will include special presentations, performances and a Heritage Expo.

February 15 to 21, 2010 – Heritage Week 2010. Dozens of community activities and events will be held throughout Ontario during this celebration of the province's rich history. For listings, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

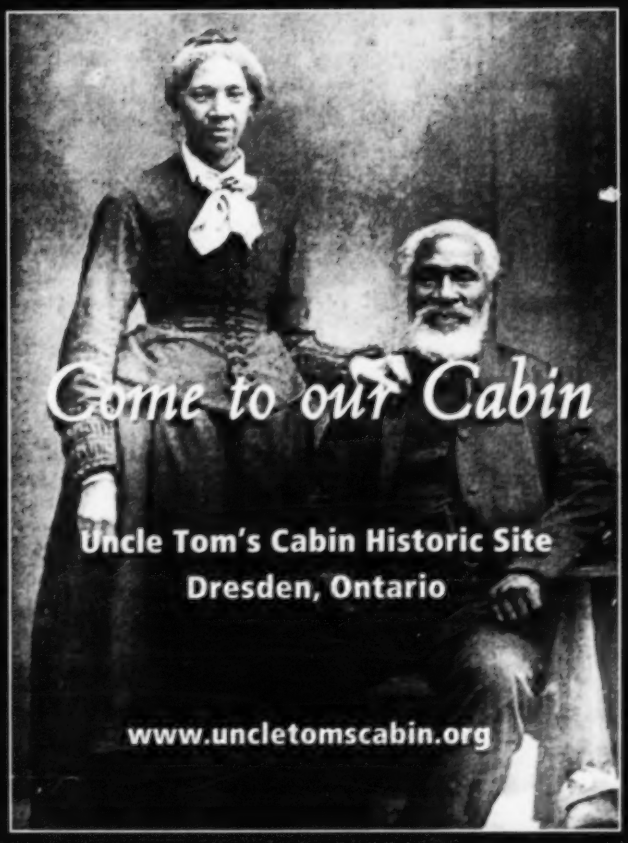
Spring 2010 – Premiers' Gravesites Program marker unveiling to commemorate The Honourable Sir James P. Whitney. Born in Dundas County in 1843, Whitney was the sixth premier of Ontario. He first won public office in 1888 in the riding of Dundas, and would hold the seat until his death. A respected orator and strong opposition leader, Whitney successfully won the premiership in 1905. Under his tenure, public utilities were further developed and growth in northern Ontario was encouraged. He died in Toronto on September 25, 1914.

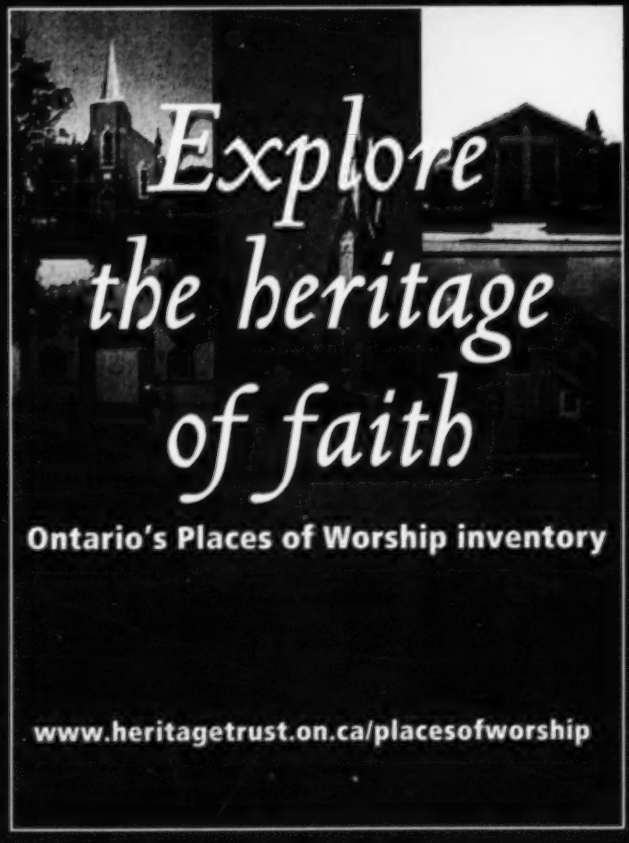
April 24, 2010 – Launch of Doors Open Ontario 2010 in Guelph. From April to October each year, communities across the province open their commercial buildings, places of worship, gardens and other heritage sites to the public free of charge. Visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca for details on upcoming events in your area. To order a copy of the printed guide (available in April 2010), call 1-800-ONTARIO (668-2746).

Sir James P. Whitney (Premier 1905–1914). (Photo courtesy of the Archives of Ontario)

Opening doors to Ontario's heritage
Coming in April 2010
www.doorsopenontario.on.ca

Let our heritage venues inspire you
www.heritagetrust.on.ca


Come to our Cabin
Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site
Dresden, Ontario
www.uncletomscabin.org


Explore the heritage of faith
Ontario's Places of Worship inventory
www.heritagetrust.on.ca/placesofworship